



Week of Feb. 25 – March 3, 2009

Motorcycle Spring Spike Focus

Spring is nearly upon us. The birds are returning north, flowers are beginning to blossom, and motorcyclists are pulling their motorcycles out of the garage after a long winter's nap.

The Air Force Safety Center conducted a study of motorcycle mishaps from FY06-08 and determined motorcycle fatal mishaps doubled in the spring over the winter season numbers. With this in mind, the Air Force Safety Center is conducting a "Spring Spike Focus" for all motorcyclists and their leadership. March 1st begins the "Spring Spike Focus" on motorcycle mishaps.

Past fatal spring motorcycle mishaps indicate:

- The average fatal motorcycle mishap involved a male Airman between the ranks of A1C to SSgt with an average age of 28
- Mishaps primarily occurred during the day, while operating a sport bike and speeding
- Another significant factor was limited experience due to no training or license, or training and licensing for less than a year

Riders can protect themselves by:

- Preparing yourself for getting back on the motorcycle; know that your skills aren't what they were when you put the bike in storage
- Preparing your bike; preflight your equipment like you do on duty
- Preparing your personal safety equipment; make sure you are protected against the unexpected
- Realizing that car drivers are not used to seeing you—they will see you late or not at all

Commanders, supervisors, and wingmen can help prepare riders by:

- Asking riders if they have pre-checked themselves and their bike
- Talking to them about the hazards of the road
- Helping inexperienced riders prepare for the season

We can reduce motorcycle mishaps through concerted efforts of motorcyclists, unit motorcycle monitors, supervisors, first sergeants, and commanders. Enjoy the ride, but make sure you and your bike are up for the new riding season.

Find Airman's Roll Call Online Here: <http://www.af.mil/library/viewpoints/>

Airman's Roll Call is designed for supervisors at all levels to help keep Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion, dispel rumors, and provide additional face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams.